

March 21, 1975

CLERK: 34 ayes, 0 nays.

PRESIDENT: Motion carries. The bill is advanced.

I'm very happy to announce, on behalf of Senator Keyes, in the South balcony we have 30 students from Platteview School in Springfield, Nebraska. Welcome to the Legislature.

We also have in the South balcony some students from Hawthorne School here in Lincoln. Senator Luedtke asked me to express the appreciation of the Legislature for you folks being here. Thank you all for coming.

CLERK: Read title to 243.

PRESIDENT: Chair recognizes Senator Luedtke.

SENATOR LUEDTKE: Mr. President, I move the adoption of the committee amendments to LB 243. If you will refer to the committee statement on LB 243 you will note the amendments were brought in and they were consolidated in a bill which is Senator Frank Lewis' bill. There had been another bill which treated the same subject, but this bill was indefinitely postponed by the Judiciary Committee. We worked it all on LB 243. The amendments themselves were offered by Senator Syas to strike Section 1, which was Mr. Ellrod's amendment, which would delete the requirement that judges be attorneys. The original bill had required that judges of the industrial relations court be attorneys. After the hearing and thorough discussion this particular suggestion of the original bill was stricken by the committee. That was the number 1 amendment, which you will see. Then, the emergency clause was adopted. I believe that that was the . . . those were the amendments. Senator Lewis may want to add, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Senator Lewis.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, we're trying to do two or three things in this bill. I want to be honest and candid with the membership about it. Number 1, there is an increase in the salary of the judges to make reasonably consistent with what we pay other judges. You can figure that out in terms of . . . it's on the committee statement. It does allow permissive binding arbitration. I want to stress the word permissive. There have been cases where there has been the desire for binding arbitrations so that they could live with whatever decision was made, and that was not permissive. Another thing it does is provides that if a city, rather than going through an election process, recognizes an organization, they can do that with the basis of cards signed rather than on the basis of going through the election process. They can do it by ordinance. A couple of cities have done that. It's an attempt to streamline and sophisticate the court of industrial relations. We've tried to make it as palatable as possible. We tried to do it in an orderly fashion. I appreciate Senator Luedtke and his committee for joining together these two bills to address the issue at the same time. I think it's a reasonable approach. I think there's nothing new and mystic in it. I would appreciate if we'd advance the bill to Select File.